

7.3.5 Energy Policy Act of 1992, Building Energy Codes

- Each State must certify to the Secretary of Energy whether its energy efficiency standards with respect to residential and commercial building codes meet or exceed those of the Council of American Building Officials (CABO) Model Energy Code, 1992, and of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, respectively.
- Requires DOE to provide technical assistance and incentive funding to the States to promote increased use of energy efficiency codes for buildings.
- Directs the Secretary to: (1) establish standards that require energy efficiency measures that are technologically feasible and economically justified in new Federal buildings; and (2) review them every five years. Mandates Federal agency compliance with such standards.
- Prescribes guidelines under which DOE shall support the upgrading of voluntary building energy codes for new residential and commercial buildings.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Agriculture are to jointly establish energy efficiency standards for residential housing. Amends Federal law regarding veterans' readjustment benefits to condition a loan for new residential housing upon compliance with such standards.
- DOE is to: (1) issue voluntary building energy code guidelines for use by the private and public sectors to encourage the assignment of energy efficiency ratings for new residential buildings; (2) establish a technical assistance program for State and local organizations to encourage the use of residential energy efficiency rating systems consistent with such guidelines; (3) provide matching grants for the establishment of regional building energy efficiency centers in each of the regions served by a DOE regional support office; and (4) establish an advisory task force to evaluate grant activities.
- HUD is to: (1) assess the energy performance of manufactured housing and make recommendations to the National Commission on Manufactured Housing regarding thermal insulation and energy efficiency improvements; and (2) test the performance and determine the cost effectiveness of manufactured housing constructed in compliance with certain statutory standards. Authorizes the States to establish thermal insulation and energy efficiency standards for manufactured housing if the Secretary of HUD has not issued final regulations by October 1993.
- HUD is to promulgate a uniform affordable housing plan using energy efficient mortgages (mortgages that provide financing incentives either for the purchase of energy efficient homes, or for incorporating the cost of such improvements into the mortgage).
- DOE is to provide financial assistance to support a voluntary national window rating program that will develop energy ratings and labels for windows and window systems. Requires the National Fenestration Rating Council to develop such rating program according to specified procedures. Requires the Secretary to develop specified alternative rating systems if a national voluntary window rating program consistent with this Act has not been developed.

Source(s): U.S. Government, Energy Policy Act of 1992 Conference Report, Oct. 1992.